

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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21

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 NEA-10 SCA-01 /019 W

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R 070841Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3125

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMCONGEN DHAHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2377

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, KU

SUBJ: CLASSIFICATION OF KUWAITI STUDENTS AS F-1

REF: DEPARTMENT'S OM MAY 16, 1975. (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT VISA OFFICE IS CORRECT THAT EMBASSY IS ISSUING A-2'S TO ALL GOK SPONCERED STUDENTS (ROUGHLY 600 PER YEAR) ON PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. TO BEST EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THIS HAS BEEN PRATICE HERE FOR MANY YEARS (AND IN ANY CASE SINCE BEFORE 1964), AS WELL AS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND SOME OTHER ARABIAN PENINSULA POSTS. EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD CONCERNING ORIGIN OF PRATICE, BUT SPECULATION IS THAT EARLY STUDENTS WERE SONS OF RULERS AND THAT SOMEHOW PRATICE CARRIED OVER FROM THEM TO OTHER STUDENTS. GOK FOREIGN MINISTRY CLAIMS IT HAS COPY OF WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND GOK CONCERNING PRATICE, BUT NOW UNABLE TO LOCATE COPY. GERALDINE CHESTER OF VO WROTE MEMO ON SUBJECT CIRCA AUGUST 1974; WAS ALSO INABLE TO FIND BACKGROUND ON SUBJECT.

2. EMBASSY AGREES STUDENTS DO NOT FALL UNDER 22 CFR 41.20. IF PRATICE IS TO BE STOPPED, REQUEST SUCH ACTION BE COORDINATED

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WITH OTHER ARABIAN PENINSULA POSTS FOLLOWING SAME PRACTICE IN

ORDER TO MINIMIZE CONFUSION AND POLITICAL POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS.

3. CURRENTLY GOK AND KUWAITI EMBASSY, WASHINGTON GEARED TO STUDENTS ARRIVING IN US WITH A-2'S OFTEN WITHOUT I-20'S. IF NECESSARY, EMBASSY EDUCATIONAL COUNSELORS THEN HELP PLACE STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS. AT PRESENT, STUDENTS OFTEN APPLY FOR VISA SOON BEFORE DEPARTURE. WE ASSUME IT TAKES UP TO THREE MONTHS TO OBTAIN I-20, AND THEREFORE REQUEST PERMISSION TO DELAY CHANGEOVER TO F-1 VISAS FOR THREE MONTHS FROM TIME WE INFORM GOK OF NEW PROCEDURE SO AS NOT TO CAUSE UNDUE HARDSHIP TO THOSE CASES IN PIPELINE. BECAUSE STUDENT'S TRAVEL, FEES, AND LIVING EXPENSES ARE PAID AND THEY ARE IN EVERY SENSE SPONCORED BY GOK AND EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, ABRUPT CHANGE WITHOUT FOREWARNING LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT GOK ATTITUDE TOWARD EMBASSY AND USG. ALSO, IN SMALL COUNTRY RUN ON AS PERSONAL BASIS AS KUWAIT, UNNECESSARILY HARMFUL ILL-WILL TOWARD US WILL BE GENERATED BY OFTEN PROMINENT PARENTS OF ADVERSELY AFFECTED STUDENTS IF THERE IS NO TIME FOR SMOOTH TRANSITION.

4. SUGGEST VISA OFFICE CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS CURRENTLY ON HOME LEAVE IN WASHINGTON, IN THIS MANNER. HE MAY BE CONTACTED THROUGH NEA/ARP.
MAU

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